Nixon's Second Resignation From California Bar Accepted

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The California Supreme Court on Wednesday accepted former President Richard M. Nixon's resignation from the state bar.

The California bar, which had been considering disciplinary action against Nixon for his Watergate role, had first recommended that the court reject Nixon's letter of resignation from the bar. It reversed itself after Nixon wrote a second resignation letter.

The brief Supreme Court order, signed by Chief Justice Donald Wright, said:

"The Sept. 16, 1974, voluntary resignation of Richard M. Nixon as a member of the State Bar of California is accepted without prejudice to further proceedings in any disclipinary matter pending against him before the state bar should he again seek to become a member thereof."

This means that in the event Nixon should seek to become a member of the state bar again, any disciplinary matter pending against him could be reinstituted.

The state bar had voted to recommend to the California Supreme Court that it reject an earlier Sept. 11 letter of resignation.

Bar president Brent Able had said the resolution was adopted because Nixon had refused to acknowledge he faced possible disciplinary action by the bar.

The bar had been considering for more than a year whether to begin formal hearings on Nixon's conduct in the Watergate affair.

Nixon's attorney, Dean Butler, said on Sept. 9 that Nixon had decided not to practice law again.

Nixon, whose home address was listed as LaCasa Pacifica, San Clemente, Calif., opened his first law office in La Habra, Calif., before World War II.